

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION

SHAWN MACKEY

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

NO. 3:23-CV-233-DPJ-ASH

JOHN PIGOTT, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS

DEPOSITION OF HENRY HUDSPETH

APPEARANCES NOTED HEREIN

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2024

PLACE: MISSISSIPPI ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
550 HIGH STREET, SUITE 1100
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
TIME: 2:30 p.m.

REPORTED BY: AMANDA MAGEE WOOTTON, CSR, RPR
CSR #1238

AW Reporting
amanda@awreporting.net
338 Indian Gate Circle
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
601.573.0961

1 Kell had never sought the position?

2 A Well, you had a vacancy. You had to have
3 somebody to head it. It was a temporary deal. It
4 wasn't permanent.

5 Q Well, it hadn't changed, right?

6 MS. JOHNSON: Object to the form.

7 MS. ROSS: (Continuing.)

8 Q It hadn't changed, correct?

9 MS. JOHNSON: What hadn't changed?

10 MS. ROSS: The position.

11 MS. ROSS: (Continuing.)

12 Q I mean, Kell is still in the position,
13 right? He moved from being interim to being executive
14 director.

15 A Exactly. After the change to where you
16 didn't have to have a doctorate degree was taken from
17 it. He became qualified during the time.

18 Q Because the all white board moved to change
19 the minimum requirements.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Object to form.

21 MS. ROSS: (Continuing.)

22 Q That's how Kell became qualified?

23 A It didn't change just for Kell. It changed
24 for -- you heard McRight talk about it, and others
25 have talked about it.

1 But she didn't have -- she didn't have a
2 doctorate degree, and we couldn't consider her, so we
3 went on. She was the longest serving employee, 25
4 years plus. She knew it from one end to the other
5 end. She was great. All the presidents loved her.
6 Everybody loved her, and still do. She still works
7 for them.

8 Q What did she do for them?

9 A I don't really know. She does whatever they
10 need done. She is a brilliant woman.

11 Q Was there anything in particular about Kell
12 that the board considered when naming him the interim
13 executive director?

14 A Good quality man.

15 Q Was Mackey not a good quality man?

16 A He was, and he is.

17 Q Was there anything besides Kell being a good
18 quality man that led the board to name him interim
19 executive director?

20 A I think the success that Kell had had with
21 the legislature really put him above anybody as far as
22 relations with the board.

23 He -- we struggled for years trying to get
24 enough money to hold the thing together. Kell -- Kell
25 took care of that. He became active in that. He

1 became friends with the members of the legislature.
2 They loved Kell Smith.

3 And Kell Smith did a wonderful, fantastic
4 job of keeping folks' paychecks coming. And he is
5 still doing it today.

6 Q Tell me of any legislation you are aware
7 that Kell Smith is responsible for the legislature
8 passing.

9 A I don't know of any. I haven't kept up with
10 that.

11 Q Well, you said he was instrumental. So he
12 was not instrumental in getting legislation passed?

13 A I'm sure he was.

14 Q Well, tell me --

15 A I'm sure he was.

16 Q Tell me about --

17 A I don't know what the legislature he got
18 passed. But he was instrumental in it.

19 Q What do you mean by instrumental?

20 A I mean, he was involved. He knew the
21 people. He knew who to politic with. He knew how to
22 explain whatever is going on to them.

23 And I'm telling you these folks over at the
24 legislature loved this guy.

25 Q Who at the legislature loved him?